commercial banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks. There is no specific plan for providing any specific amount of finance.

(b) and (c). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Details of various refinance facilities provided by the NABARD to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) Regional Rural Banks/Commercial Banks are given below

State Cooperative Banks/District Central Cooperative Banks

- Production and Marketing activities of primary handloom/powerloom weavers societies.
- Procurement and marketing activities of apex weavers cooperative societies.

Regional Rural Banks

- Short term (working capital) limits to Regional Rural Banks for financing production and marketing activities of artisans (including handloom and powerloom weavers).

Commercial Banks

- NABARD provides short term (Working Capital) limits for financing Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies in certain areas.

(ii) Investment Credit

- Refinance to banks for financing of acquisition of powerlooms.
- Refinance to SCBs for financing acquisition of powerlooms by weavers societies and individual weaver members of primary handloom/powerloom weavers' societies.
- Refinance to banks for financing modernisation/renovation/expansion/ diversification of existing powerlooms units.
- Refinance to banks for the modernisation of powerlooms under the scheme prepared by Manmade Textile Research Association (MANTRA).
- Refinance to Cooperative Banks and Commercial Banks for setting up/renovation/ modernisation of showroom/sales exporia by Apex Weavers Societies.

SIDBI's Special Scheme For Refinance to Powerloom Units

Terms loans granted by all eligible institutions to new grassroot powerloom units coming up in the small scale sector and not envisaging production of any items reserved for the Handloom sector, are eligible for refinance assistance from SIDBI, subject to the proposals satisfying the usual norms and parameters of SIDBI's Refinance Scheme. Assistance would also be available for modernisation and technology upgradation schemes of existing powerloom units.

SIDBI has introduced a special scheme in respect of assistance sanctioned by eligible institutions to the workers of National Textile Corporation (NTC) who opt for voluntary retirement. Under the scheme, assistance can be provided by primary lending institutions (PLIs) viz. State Financial Corporations, State Industrial Development Corporations, NTC for acquisition of 2 or 4 new looms for setting up of reeling units as co-operative societies by a group of such workers. In recognisation of the basic objectives to be fulfilled by this package, acquisition of old powerlooms from NTC by its workers has also been made eligible for refinance assistance from SIDBI.

Units in powerloom sector have to avail of the facility under SIDBI's schemes through PLIs. PLIs have been advised to consider proposals received from the powerloom units and avail of the refinance facility available to them against their term loans from SIDBI.

Setting up of Dry Port at Kandla

1160. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Dry Port at Kandla (Gujarat) to facilitate exports of agriculture and horticulture produce from Punjab and other Northern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items through Kandla Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). An Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of dry ports (Island Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs). A proposal of Central Warehousing Corporation for setting up of a CFS at Kandla was cleared by the said IMC. The CFS at Kandla is in operation since March, 1996. The entire area can be utilised for stuffing agricultural and horticultural export commodities and various other commodities which are generated from the hinterland of Punjab & Haryana besides Delhi and Rajasthan.

Export of Cashew to Russia

1161. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rusia is importing cashew from the country;